International guidelines on human rights and drug policy: a potential tool in drug policy design and implementation

Dr. Tenu Avafia
Team Leader, Human rights, key populations and treatment access
HIV, Health and Development Team, UNDP

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Overview

• Nexus between drug policy and sustainable development
• Guidelines on human rights and drug control
“UNGASS was a ground-breaking moment that provided a detailed and forward-looking blueprint for action. Together, we must honour the unanimous commitments made to reduce drug abuse, illicit trafficking and the harm that drugs cause, and to ensure that our approach promotes equality, human rights, sustainable development, and greater peace and security.”

- UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres
Root causes: poverty, lack of sustainable livelihoods
Poverty and sustainable livelihoods
Gender equality
Alternatives to incarceration

“A criminal record for a young person for a minor drug offence can be a far greater threat to their well-being than occasional drug use.”

Kofi Annan

“Domestic and international anti-drug policies are a leading cause of rising rates of incarceration of women around the world.”

Rashida Manjoo, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women
Alternatives to Incarceration
What role for human rights guidelines?
Sequencing and Crop Control Measures

**Member States should** “ensure that eradication is not undertaken until small-farmer households have adopted viable and sustainable livelihoods and that interventions are properly sequenced” and that donor countries “do not make development assistance conditional on reductions in illicit drug crop cultivation.”

- Recommendations, Intergovernmental expert working group on eradication and alternative development, convened by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2008
Guidelines on human rights and drug control
Thank you!